GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:194
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2008
REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF AI PASSENGERS
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger volume in Air India(AI) has drastically reduced in recent times resulting in discontinuation of some flights;

(b) if so,the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to improve the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a),(b)and(c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.194 FOR 11.12.2008 REGARDING REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF AI PASSENGERS.

(a)and(b): Due to very high cost of ATF and subsequent impact on airfares,there has been a declining trend in the passenger volume during 2008 as compared to 2007.As far as Air India is concerned,the passenger volume during the April to September,2008 has declined by 35% and 26% on international and Domestic sectors respectively as compared to the corresponding period last year.

(c): The following measures have been taken by Air India to improve the load factor and to generate more revenues:-

(1) Ordering of 111 new aircraft and phasing out of old aircraft to improve on-time performance and schedule reliability.

(2) Route rationalization and withdrawal of flights from some loss making routes to save on cost of operations.

(3) Product improvement measures like refurbishment of existing fleet,city check-in,advance airport check-in,e-ticketing,etc.

(4) Joining Star Alliance,an Alliance of major airlines in the world,to improve its market reach and revenue.

(5) Rationalization of menus and catering upliftment.